



Watershed Watch

The Watershed Watch Campaign is a public education initiative of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), a coalition of local government agencies. Members include the cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the towns of Los Gatos and Los Altos Hills. For more information about SCVURPPP, please visit www.scvurppp.org

The Watershed Watch Campaign is dedicated to raising awareness about water pollution in our creeks and the Bay, and encouraging actions that prevent urban runoff pollution and protect our watershed.

Visit the Watershed Watch website at www.myWatershedWatch.org or call 1(866) WATERSHED for more information such as:

- ◆ **Pollution prevention tips**
- ◆ **How to find a Green Gardener**
- ◆ **Less toxic methods of pest control**
- ◆ **Volunteer opportunities**
- ◆ **Automotive care tips**
- ◆ **Discount offers from local businesses**
- ◆ **Programs for educators**
- ◆ **Fun for kids**



Call to report:

Illegal dumping in or near storm drains

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Campbell, Los Gatos, | (408) 354-5385 |
| Monte Sereno, Saratoga | (408) 777-3354 |
| Cupertino | (650) 947-2770 |
| Los Altos | (650) 941-7222 |
| Los Altos Hills | 911 |
| Milpitas | (650) 903-6378 |
| Mountain View | (650) 329-2413 |
| Palo Alto (24 hour support) | (408) 945-3000 |
| San Jose (24 hour support) | (408) 615-5580 |
| Santa Clara (24 hour support) | (408) 730-7270 |
| Sunnyvale | |
| Unincorporated | |
| Santa Clara County | (408) 918-3400 |

In case of emergencies or after business hours, please call 911 to report the incident

Illegal dumping in creeks

Santa Clara Valley Water District Pollution Prevention Hot Line (24 hour support) | (888) 510-5151
www.valleywater.org

Polluting vehicles'

license numbers | (800) EXHAUST
www.baaqmd.gov/exhaust/exhaust.htm

For more information:

Disposal of hazardous household products

Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program (408) 299-7300
www.HHW.org

City of Palo Alto's Household

Hazardous Waste Program (650) 496-6980
www.cleanbay.org

City of Cupertino Household

Hazardous Waste Program | (800) 449-7587
www.wmatyourdoor.com

Recycling

Santa Clara County Recycling Hotline | (800) 533-8414
www.recyclestuff.org

Carpooling

Rides for Bay Area Commuters 511
www.511.org

Storm water pollution prevention

Watershed Watch Hotline: | (866) WATERSHED (928-3774)
www.myWatershedWatch.org

You are the Solution to Water Pollution



You live in a watershed

A watershed is a land area that drains rain and other water into a creek, river, lake, wetland, bay or groundwater aquifer. Rain and irrigation from lawns and gardens wash pollutants off surfaces like streets, sidewalks, roofs, driveways and parking lots, into storm drains and creeks, and out to the Bay.

You may live miles away from the Bay and still be polluting its waters

Water from your neighborhood enters the storm drain system and flows directly to local creeks and the Bay **without any treatment**. It often is contaminated by pollutants that can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people.

Residents and small businesses are the leading causes of local storm water pollution, and have become the primary threats to the Bay. Pollutants that get into storm water because of our daily choices and activities can end up in our creeks and the Bay. You may be polluting the Bay without realizing it.

Storm drains carry water and pollutants directly to our local creeks and the Bay.

Never put anything into the gutter, street or storm drain. Help prevent pollutants from entering local storm drains.

Storm water pollutants like these come from our everyday activities:

- Motor oil and auto fluids which leak from our vehicles
- Antifreeze, oil, paint or household cleaners dumped or rinsed into the gutter
- Soap and dirt from washing cars in the driveway or street
- Litter and grime that collects on parking lots and sidewalks
- Weed killers, fertilizers and pesticides that are washed off lawns
- Pet waste left on lawns, streets, in the gutter or on sidewalks
- Dirt, leaves and lawn clippings that clog storm drains and choke creeks with too much organic material, depriving them of vital oxygen
- Soil from construction or landscaping that erodes or blows into the street, often containing pesticides or other pollutants
- Pollutants in the air carried by rain through storm drains into our creeks



Preventing pollution is an everyday activity



Circle the actions that prevent pollution in the watershed. Can you find 10 or more?

For answers, visit www.myWatershedWatch.org/solutions.html

Prevent storm water pollution in the Santa Clara Valley by making small changes to your daily routine.

Chores

- Keep garbage and recycling cans tightly covered to prevent litter from being blown away or scattered by foraging animals.
- Clean leaves and trash out of your rain and street gutters.
- When using a cleaning company (e.g. carpet cleaners, window washers, power washers), be sure they dispose of wastewater in a utility sink, toilet, sanitary sewer cleanout, or a vegetated area.
- Dispose of pet waste in the garbage.



Lawn and Garden

- Use “green” gardening methods such as conserving water, planting native plants, protecting the soil and reducing the use of toxic pesticides.
- Adjust your sprinklers or irrigation systems to prevent over-watering, and prevent water from draining onto paved surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean up outside.
- Compost leaves and yard clippings, or recycle them through your yard waste recycling program.
- Sweep dirt into landscaping to prevent it from entering storm drains.
- When using a gardening service, be sure they follow the guidelines listed above.



Home Improvement Projects

- Rinse latex paint tools in a sink, not outdoors.
- Drain your pool or spa into a sanitary sewer cleanout or drain to a vegetated area, not into a street or storm drain.
- Keep concrete, cement, dirt or mortar from blowing or flowing into the street or storm drain. Don't wash tools or dispose of excess materials in the gutter or storm drain.
- Provide landscaping next to sidewalks and driveways to collect runoff from paved surfaces.
- Use “green building” materials and practices, such as pervious paving, for your next project.



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

- To clean up toxic spills like motor oil, paint and antifreeze, use an absorbent material. Clean up spills and dispose of soiled absorbent promptly.
- Contact your waste hauler or go to www.hhw.org to learn about the proper disposal of these and other common household products requiring special care:
 - Fluorescent light bulbs
 - Pesticides
 - Cleaning chemicals and solvents
 - Batteries
 - Paints and paint thinners
 - Medicines
 - Motor oil and filters
 - Toxic spills and clean ups greater than one gallon
 - Electronics



Automotive

- Regularly maintain your vehicle to prevent air-polluting exhaust and leaks of auto fluids. Fix leaks promptly.
- If you change your own oil, recycle it and the filter with your local curbside recycling pickup, or through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Use a commercial car wash, or wash cars on a lawn or dirt surface. Empty your bucket of soapy water into a sink or toilet.
- Keep a trash bag in the car. Collect all trash and dispose of it properly.
- When hauling by truck, enclose your loads or cover with a tarp.



Protect and Enjoy Your Watershed

- If you see litter, pick it up and put it in a trash can.
- Buy fewer harsh or toxic cleaning chemicals. Store and dispose of them properly.
- Cars pollute air and water, so drive less.
- Ride a bike or walk along a creek. For trail information, visit www.parkhere.org
- Take a walk along the wetlands with a naturalist. Call the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Alviso at (408) 262-5513 for more details.
- Adopt your local creek or park. For these and other volunteer opportunities visit www.myWatershedWatch.org
- Create a legacy of pollution prevention. Teach your children about the importance of protecting the watershed for the health and survival of all living things. Show them how to prevent storm water pollution.

